GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:40
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2002
REHABILITATION OF EVICTED FOREST LAND ENCROACHERS
JAYANTA RONGPI

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court in recent months has pronounced judgement for evictions of encroachers from the forest land in certain States;

(b) if so, the name of States where such eviction operations are going on;

(c) the number of families evicted so far, State-wise;

(d) the time by which such eviction operation are likely to be completed, State-wise;

(e) the total number of families who are dwelling in reserve forest area, State-wise; and

(f) the policy of the Government in respect to rehabilitation of evicted families?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU)

(a) to (f): Yes Sir. The Supreme Court in their order dated: 23-11-2001, and further order dated: 7-5-2002, has restrained the Central Government from regularization of encroachments and directed to evict the encroachers from forest lands in the country. Accordingly, the Government of India had issued instructions to all the States for taking up eviction of encroachers in a time bound manner in compliance with the directives of the Supreme Court and also in conformity with the provisions of the National Forest Policy, 1988. Central Government, interalia, has issued further guidelines for monitoring the process of eviction of encroachers at State and Circle level. It is the responsibility of the State Governments to manage and protect the forests at operational level and therefore, the eviction of the encroachers is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. Recently, the Government of India has been intimated by the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Shillong, that Government of Assam hastaken up steps to evict the encroachers. The question of rehabilitation of encroachers is the concern of State Governments.